

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claim 4 was objected to for an informality and was corrected by amendment above.

The specification was objected to for informalities. This objection is respectfully traversed and overcome by the enclosed amendments to the specification. A typographical error occurred on page 2, lines 2-3 of the specification and was corrected to properly list the provisional priority application as listed on the originally submitted Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Figure 4 of the drawings were objected to and corrected by the attached Letter to the Office Draftsperson, including an amended drawing with changes marked in red, and a REPLACEMENT SHEET formal drawing.

No new subject matter has been added to the specification.

A certified copy of priority EP02102049.0 filed July 19, 2002 has been ordered and will be forwarded to you as soon as we receive it from the EPO.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

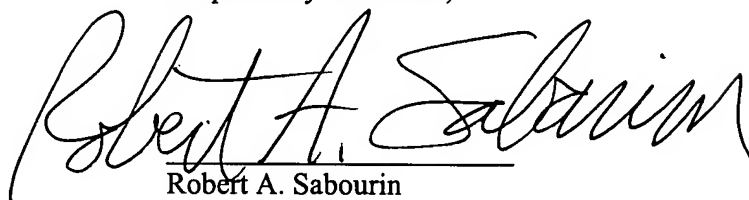
A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time in which to respond to the outstanding Office action, to and through at least February 16, 2005, accompanies this response. Should the Petition become lost or otherwise separated from this response, the Examiner is requested to treat this response as the original Petition.

This is a general authorization to charge any fees due and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3377.

It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert A. Sabourin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Sabourin" clearly legible. A horizontal line is drawn beneath the signature.

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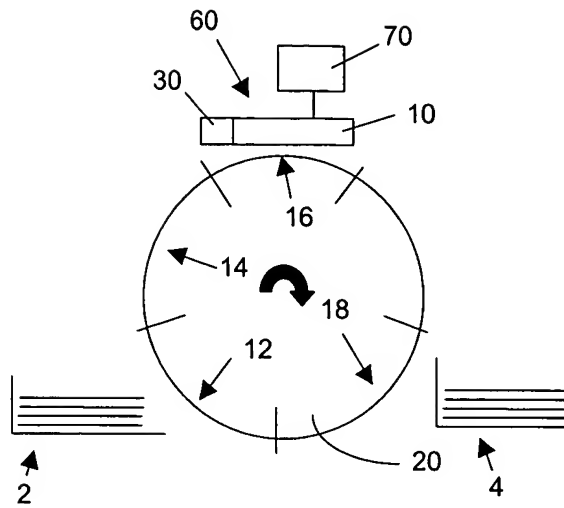


Fig. 2

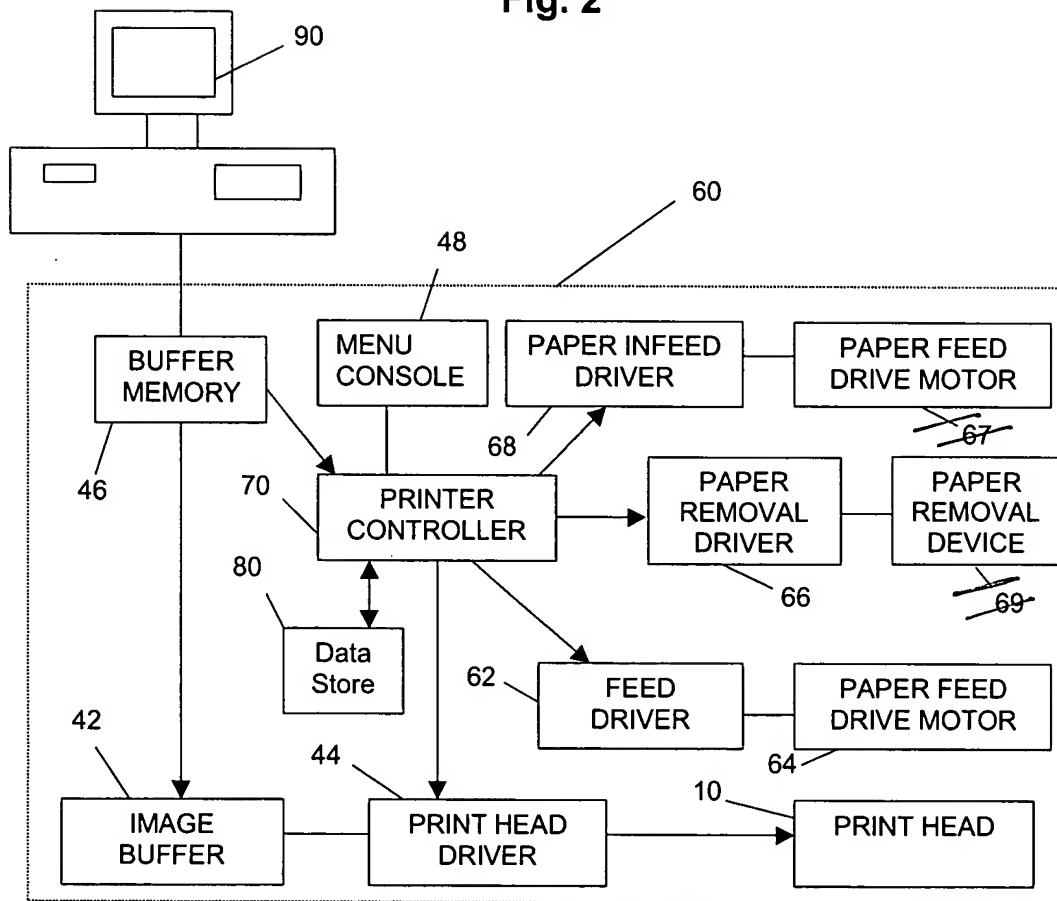


Fig. 4